Killings of Dalits in U.P.

1867. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five dalits were done to death in Fatehpur district in UP in the middle of June, 2001;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in an earlier incident in the Aligarh district of UP, six dalits were also murdered in May, 2001;

(c) if so, what are the reasons to such incidents; and

(d) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five members of the Scheduled Castes were murdered in an incident in the intervening night of 12th and 13th of June, 2001.

(c) and (d) Investigations have revealed that both the above incidents were caused because of individual disputes. Prompt action has been taken by the police in both the cases. All the accused were either arrested or surrendered before the court. In both the cases, chargesheets have been filed. Ex-Gratia grants have been given to the next of kin of the deceased. Precautionary measures have been taken for the safety of the families of the deceased. The State Government have reported that it is monitoring the functioning of the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees (D.V. & M.C.) established under Section 17 of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Directions have been issued to the District Magistrates and District Police Chiefs to hold monthly meetings of the D.V. & M.C. and also indentify the villages, which are sensitive from the point of view of caste conflict and tension. Directions have also been issued that sub-Divisional Magistrates and Circle Officers of the Police shall jointly inspect the sensitive villages and try to resolve such disputes which are a potential source of caste conflict and tension and take adequate preventive measures.